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Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 25th and 28th meetings, on 17 and 23 December 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.25 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the revised budget for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/63/546 and Corr.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/602).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.6

4. At its 28th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea" (A/C.5/63/L.6), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Singapore.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.6 without a vote (see para. 6 below).

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1312 (2000) of 31 July 2000, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the last of which was resolution 1798 (2008) of 30 January 2008, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 31 July 2008,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1827 (2008) of 30 July 2008, by which the Council terminated the mandate of the Mission effective on 31 July 2008,

Recalling further its resolution 55/237 of 23 December 2000 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 62/259 of 20 June 2008,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to complete its administrative liquidation,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea as at 31 October 2008, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 17.5 million United States dollars, representing some 1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only eighty-seven Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses* its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

3. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear

[1] A/63/546 and Corr.1.
[2] A/63/602.

additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Revised budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

9. *Decides* to reduce the appropriation of 100,367,400 dollars approved for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 under the terms of its resolution 62/259 by the amount of 63,351,000 dollars, to 37,016,400 dollars;

10. *Also decides* to reduce the amount of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 under the terms of its resolution 62/259 from 2,339,800 dollars to 1,111,400 dollars;

Financing of the appropriation

11. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 28,652,450 dollars for the administrative liquidation of the Mission for the period from 1 August 2008 to 30 June 2009, in addition to the amount of 8,750,833 dollars already apportioned for the period from 1 to 31 July 2008 under the terms of its resolution 62/259, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 61/243 of 22 December 2006, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2008 and 2009, as set out in its resolution 61/237 of 22 December 2006;

12. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 11 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 916,417 dollars approved for the Mission for the period from 1 August 2008 to 30 June 2009;

13. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

14. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the

United Nations participating in the Mission, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

15. *Decides* to keep under review during its sixty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea".